

## Message Text

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12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /082 W  
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R 221729Z JAN 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5894  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00673

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, ENER, EAGR, PINT, EEC, BE  
SUBJECT: TINDEMANS FAVORS SCHMIDT AS EC SPOKESMAN TO US

REF: BRUSSELS 607

1. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS,  
WHO PARTICIPATED IN USIS BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM EVENING JAN. 21,  
WE DREW HIM OUT FURTHER ON ASPECTS OF HIS WISEMAN  
REPORT (REFTEL).

2. TINDEMANS SAID HELMUT SCHMIDT WAS THE "OBVIOUS"  
CHOICE TO REPRESENT EC IN DIALOGUE WITH USG ON US-EC  
RELATIONSHIP. HE SET FORTH HIS REASONING AS FOLLOWS:  
"GISCARD IS UNDER CERTAIN CONSTRAINTS. HE IS THE  
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PRESIDENT OF FRANCE - ALL FRANCE. HE IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO

SPEAK FOR EC AS A WHOLE. A GOVERNMENT HEAD FROM ONE OF THE SMALL COUNTRIES WOULD LACK AUTHORITY. EITHER THAT OR HIS MANDATE WOULD BE SO STRICTLY WRITTEN THAT HE WOULD BE TONGUE-TIED. WILSON WOULD NOT BE RIGHT. BESIDES HE IS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION NOW. SCHMIDT IS THE OBVIOUS ONE."

3. TINDEMANS CITED SCHMIDT'S PARTICULAR QUALIFICATIONS AS FOLLOWS: (A) HE NAVIGATES IN THE MAINSTREAM OF THINKING WITHIN EC ON THE COMMUNITY'S FORM AND FUTURE; (B) HE IS NOT INHIBITED BY POLITICAL WEAKNESS OR RESTRAINTS AT HOME; (C) HE HAS "THE SIZE" TO SPEAK EFFECTIVELY FOR EC IN THE US.

4. TINDEMANS SAID HE HAD HAD COMMUNICATIONS FROM SEVERAL EC GOVERNMENT HEADS. ON THE BASIS OF THESE REACTIONS AND WHAT HE HAS HEARD ELSEWHERE, HE CONCLUDED: "SO FAR I HAVE AT LEAST NOT GOOD MARKS FOR TRYING. THE REPORT WILL UNQUESTIONABLY BE THE BASIS FOR A SERIOUS DISCUSSION AMONG US. IT DOES NOT CONTAIN EVERYTHING I WANTED TO PUT IN IT. BUT I COULD NOT PUT IN PROPOSALS THAT WERE CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE - FOR BRITAIN, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CRITERION FOR WHAT WENT INTO THE REPORT WAS THAT IT WAS AT LEAST POTENTIALLY ACCEPTABLE TO EVERYONE. DAVIGNON TOLD ME THE CHANCE FOR THAT WAS NO BETTER THAN 25 PERCENT. I ACCEPT THE ODDS." FIRESTONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, EFIN, ENRG, EAGR, PINT, BE, GE, US, EEC, (TINDEMANS, LEO)  
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